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Seventy-first year

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Identical letters dated 27 April 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Further to the letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Elmar Mammadyarov, dated 20 April 2016, on the recent escalation of the situation at the line of contact of the armed forces of Armenia and Azerbaijan and the border between the two States, I would like to draw your attention to the latest gross violation by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia of the ceasefire agreement of 5 April 2016, reached in Moscow between the Chiefs of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia, with the assistance of the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation.

The armed forces of Armenia, while concentrating additional forces and military equipment at the line of contact, starting from 23 April 2016, fired intensively on the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan and the civilian settlements near the confrontation line using large-calibre weapons, mortars, grenade launchers and heavy artillery. It should be noted that there are inhabited Azerbaijani villages only on Azerbaijan-controlled territories, as all other settlements on Armenian-controlled land have been totally ethnically cleansed by the Armenian armed forces. On 24 April at midnight, a house belonging to a resident of the Shikharkh settlement in the Tartar district of Azerbaijan was destroyed as a result of artillery shelling by the armed forces of Armenia (see photographs in annex I). On that night, the units of the armed forces of Armenia fired intensively on the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan from the tanks concentrated along the confrontation line, and attempted to attack with additional manpower.

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The latest offensive actions of the armed forces of Armenia undermine the recent ceasefire agreement of 5 April 2016 and seriously challenge the diplomatic efforts of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Minsk Group aimed at resolution of the conflict.

In this respect, we reiterate our appeal to the international community to condemn Armenia for blatant violation of international law and the ceasefire regime, demand strict compliance by it with the 5 April 2016 ceasefire commitments and that it engage constructively in substantive talks on the withdrawal of its armed forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan that would thus pave the way for further consideration and solution of remaining political issues.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes[1] circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35 and 40, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Husniyya **Mammadova**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

[1] Annex II is being circulated in the language of submission only.

Annex I to the letter dated 27 April 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Information from the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan

The armed forces of the Republic of Armenia have again grossly violated the ceasefire agreement of 5 April 2016 reached between the Chiefs of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia.

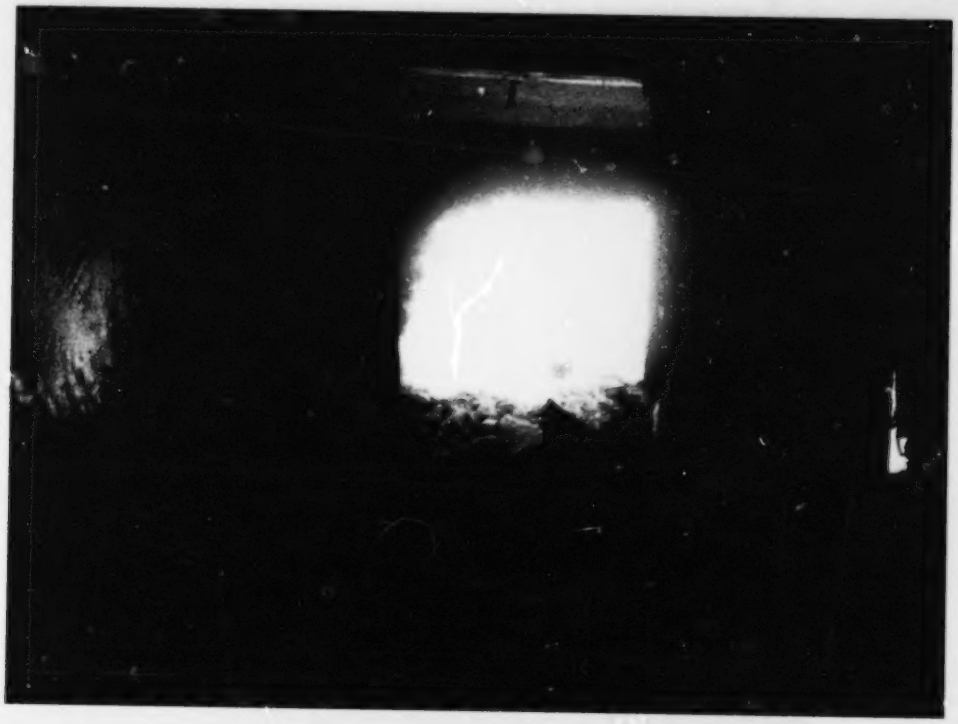
Units of the armed forces of Armenia, while concentrating additional forces and military equipment in the direction of Aghdere, starting from 23 April 2016, fired intensively on the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan and the civilian settlements in the Tartar district near the confrontation line using large-calibre weapons, mortars, grenade launchers and heavy artillery.

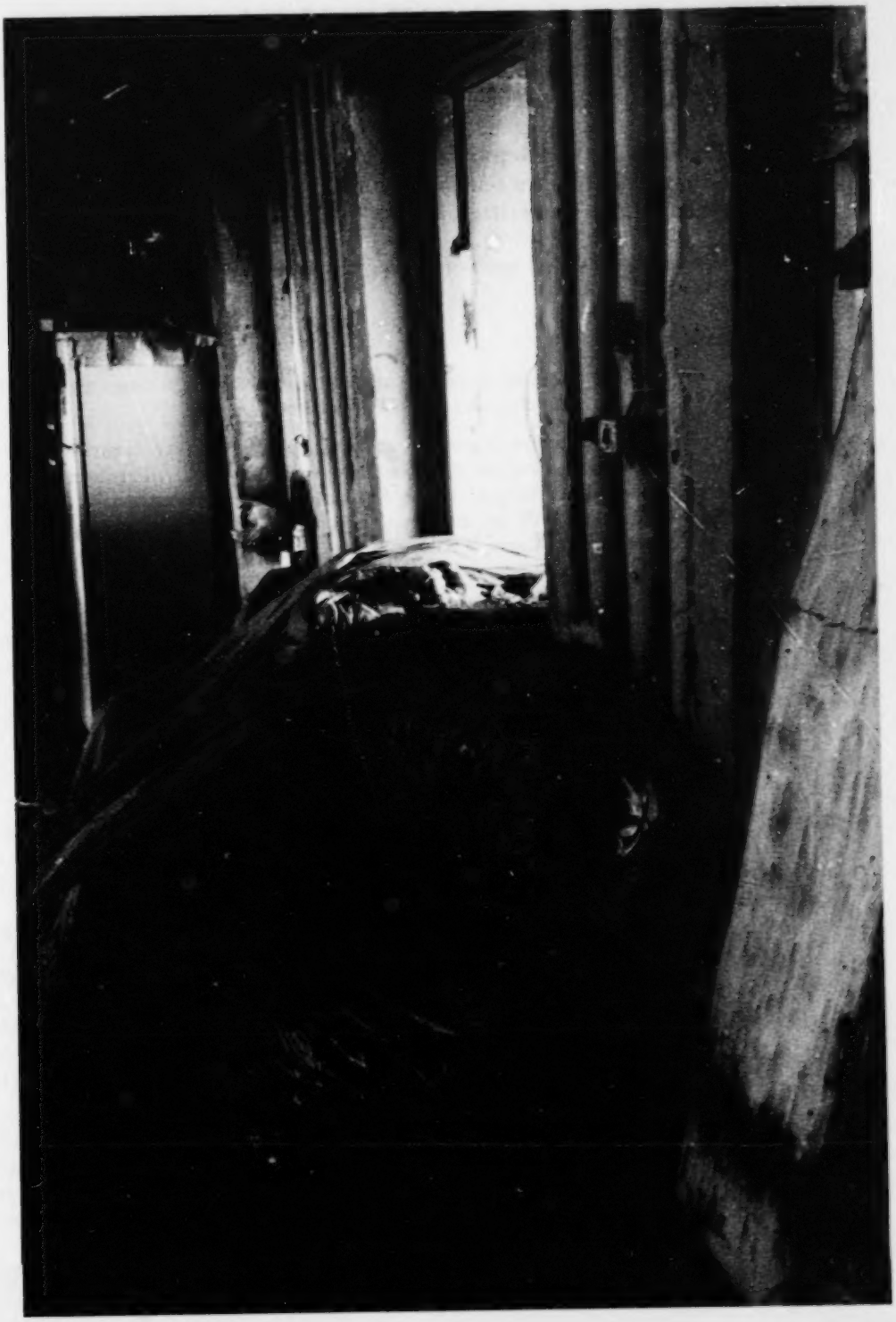
The armed forces of Armenia, using 122-mm D-30 howitzers, fired up to 20 projectiles on the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan. On 24 April at midnight, the house belonging to a resident of the Shikharkh settlement in the Tartar district was destroyed (see photographs below) as a result of artillery shelling by the armed forces of Armenia.

The units of the armed forces of Azerbaijan took immediate countermeasure actions in that direction, in order to prevent the hostile activities by the armed forces of Armenia. At midnight on 24 April, the units of the armed forces of Armenia fired intensively on the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan from the tanks concentrated along the confrontation line, and attempted to attack with additional manpower.

Tanks belonging to the armed forces of Armenia, while approaching the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan, were stopped by fire and one of them was destroyed, with its crew. After this action Armenian units were forced to retreat in the direction of Aghdere. Armenian artillery units located around the Sugovushan (Madagiz) military base were also suppressed by preventive measures.

House belonging to a resident of the Shikharkh settlement in the Tartar district, destroyed as a result of artillery shelling by the armed forces of Armenia





Annex II to the letter dated 27 April 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Violations by the Republic of Armenia of the ceasefire agreement of 5 April 2016 between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan committed from 19 to 24 April

Update to the list of 20 April containing the violations committed from 5 to 19 April*

20 April 2016

The armed forces of Armenia violated the ceasefire 120 times along various directions of the front, also using large-calibre machine guns.

From their positions in nameless heights located in the Ijevan district, Dovekh village in the Noyemberyan district, Chinari and Aygepar villages in the Berd district and nameless heights in the Krasnoselsk district of Armenia, the armed forces of Armenia fired on the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan in nameless heights and Kamarli village in the Gazakh district, nameless heights and Aghbulag village in the Tovuz district and nameless heights in the Gadabay district.

The positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan were also subjected to fire from positions in nameless heights near Chileburt and Yarimja villages in the Tartar district; Shikhlar, Javahirli, Sarijali, Kangarli, Novruzlu, Marzili, Shuraabad, Garagashli, Yusifjanli and Namirli villages in the Aghdam district; Kuropatkino village in the Khojavand district; Garakhanbayli, Horadiz, Gorgan and Ashaghi Seyidahmadli villages in the Fuzuli district; and Mehdili village in the Jabrayil district, as well as in heights in Goygol, Goranboy, Khojavand, Fizuli and Jabrayil districts.

21 April 2016

The armed forces of Armenia violated the ceasefire 143 times along various directions of the front, also using 60-mm mortars.

From their positions in Berkaber and Parakavar villages in the Ijevan district, Mosesgekh, Chinari and Aygepar villages in the Berd district and nameless heights in the Krasnoselsk district of Armenia, the armed forces of Armenia fired on the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan in Gizilhajili village in the Gazakh district; Kohnagishlag village in the Aghstafa district; Aghdam, Alibayli and Koxanabi villages in the Tovuz district and nameless heights in the Gadabay district.

The positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan were also subjected to fire from positions in heights near Chileburt, Goyarkh and Yarimja villages in the Tartar district; Shikhlar, Bash Garvand, Javahirli, Sarijali, Kangarli, Marzili, Garagashli and Yusifjanli villages in the Aghdam district; Kuropatkino village in the Khojavand

* See A/70/838, annex.

district; Garakhanbayli, Horadiz, Gorgan, Ashaghi Seyidahmadli villages in the Fuzuli district; and Mehdili village in the Jabrayil district, as well as in nameless heights in the Goygol, Goranboy, Khojavand, Fizuli and Jabrayil districts.

22 April 2016

The armed forces of Armenia violated the ceasefire 110 times along various directions of the front, also using large-calibre machine guns and 60-mm mortars.

From their positions in Parakavar and Berkaber villages in the Ijevan district, Dovekh and Barekamavan villages in the Noyemberyan district, Aygepar and Mosesgekh villages in the Berd district and nameless heights in the Krasnoselsk district of Armenia, the armed forces of Armenia fired on the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan in nameless heights and Gizilhajili, Kamarli and Gaymagli villages in the Gazakh district; Alibayli and Aghdam villages in the Tovuz district and nameless heights in the Gadabay district.

The positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan were also subjected to fire from positions in heights near Chileburt, Yarimja and Goyarkh villages in the Tartar district; Shikhlar, Javahirli, Sarijali, Kangarli, Novruzlu, Shuraabad, Garagashli, Marzili and Yusifjanli villages in the Aghdam district; Kuropatkino village in the Khojavand district; Garakhanbayli, Horadiz, Gorgan and Ashaghi Seyidahmadli villages in the Fuzuli district; and Mehdili village in the Jabrayil district, as well as in nameless heights in the Goygol, Goranboy, Khojavand, Fizuli and Jabrayil districts.

23 April 2016

The armed forces of Armenia violated the ceasefire 108 times along various directions of the front using large-calibre machine guns, mortars, grenade launchers and artillery systems of 60, 82 and 120 mm, as well as battle tanks.

From their positions in nameless heights, as well as Parakavar and Berkaber villages in the Ijevan district, Dovekh village in the Noyemberyan district, Mosesgekh, Chinari and Aygepar villages in the Berd district and nameless heights in the Krasnoselsk district of Armenia, the armed forces of Armenia fired on the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan in Kohnagishlag village in the Aghstafa district; nameless heights and Gizilhajili and Kamarli villages in the Gazakh district; nameless heights and Aghdam, Alibayli and Aghbulag villages in the Tovuz district and nameless heights in the Gadabay district.

The positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan were also subjected to fire from positions in heights near Chileburt and Yarimja villages in the Tartar district; Shikhlar, Bash Garvand, Kangarli, Novruzlu, Marzili, Garagashli, Yusifjanli and Namirli villages in the Aghdam district; Kuropatkino village in the Khojavand district; Garakhanbayli, Horadiz, Gorgan and Ashaghi Seyidahmadli villages in the Fuzuli district; and Mehdili village in the Jabrayil district, as well as in nameless heights in the Goygol, Goranboy, Khojavand, Fizuli and Jabrayil districts.

24 April 2016

The armed forces of Armenia violated the ceasefire 130 times along various directions of the front using 60-mm mortars, as well as 122-mm D-30 howitzers.

From their positions in nameless heights, as well as Parakavar and Berkaber villages in the Ijevan district, Mosesgekh and Chinari villages in the Berd district and nameless heights in the Krasnoselsk district of Armenia, the armed forces of Armenia fired on the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan in Kohnagishlag village in the Aghstafa district; nameless heights and Gizilhajili village in the Gazakh district; Aghdam and Kokhanabi villages in the Tovuz district and nameless heights in the Gadabay district.

The positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan were also subjected to fire from positions in heights near Chileburt, Yarimja and Goyarkh villages in the Tartar district; Shikhlar, Bash Garvand, Kangarli, Javahirli, Sarijali and Namirli villages in the Aghdam district; Kuropatkino village in the Khojavand district; Garakhanbayli, Horadiz, Gorgan and Ashaghi Seyidahmadli villages in the Fuzuli district; and Mehdili village in the Jabrayil district, as well as in nameless heights in the Goygol, Goranboy, Khojavand, Fizuli and Jabrayil districts.